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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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GE.77-68292

7. In its previous session in September 1971, the General Assembly would itself be considering the outcome of the first decade of international economic co-operation. Whatever the Assembly's assessment, the issues discussed would need to be pursued within the framework of the United Nations itself. UNCTAD would no doubt be called upon to play its part in the process of dialogue and negotiation. Most of the issues arising under the heading of a North-South dialogue had long been of major concern to UNCTAD, which could prepare to contribute to their further development. Even in the context of the discussion on energy, he had been impressed by the extent to which some aspects of the problem that dealt with the transfer of technology and thus were of direct interest to UNCTAD in the light of its experience and involvement in that important subject.

8. The fifth session of UNCTAD, scheduled for 1972, would have to be seen in the context of the ongoing North-South dialogue relating between developed and developing countries. At present, with so many negotiations or events in progress, it was difficult to be specific about the particular issues that would have arisen at that session. The negotiations under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, and those in the field of trade and the transfer of technology, the ministerial meeting in Lima, and the multilateral trade negotiations, were due to be completed before the fifth session in 1972. The issues before the Conference would depend, inter alia, on the results of those negotiations and the manner in which they and other major issues unfolded in the intervening period. The Board might therefore leave the provisional agenda for the fifth session of UNCTAD to be drawn up at its eighteenth session, confining itself to the basic organizational decisions necessary to launch the preparations for the Conference.

9. He also drew attention to work in other areas of major significance which, although they did not at present involve negotiations, were nevertheless of vital importance and had in many cases been given a strong impetus by the Nairobi Conference and subsequently by the Board. One such area was economic co-operation among developing countries. In pursuance of the decisions taken at Nairobi, an intergovernmental committee had been established on the subject as part of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD. Co-operation among developing countries was rapidly gaining momentum and opening up new and important vistas of great potential for the future. UNCTAD had a considerable work programme in that field, which would be one of its major preoccupations. The Board at its present session was called upon to take certain decisions with regard to the implementation of the programme.

10. UNCTAD was also becoming a focal point for the problems relating to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries - problems that were often of a special character and special urgency. It attached great importance to its work programme in that field.

11. It was also concerned with implementing the provisions of the resolutions adopted at Nairobi with regard to trade among countries having different economic and social systems. The establishment of a sessional committee to deal with that subject as a feature of the Board's regular sessions was one of